

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180465

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, EEWT, UR, BGEN

SUBJECT: CRAWFORD ARREST:INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER LETTERS
TO SECRETARY VANCE AND AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN,

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE TEXTS OF LETTERS CONCERNING THE CRAW-
FORD CASE THAT BROOKS MC CORMICK, CHAIRMAN OF INTERNATIONAL
HARVESTER, HAS WRITTEN TO SECRETARY VANCE AND AMBASSADOR
DOBRYNIN. BOTH LETTERS ARE DATED JULY 14. MC CORMICK
GAVE THEM TO ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER WHEN HE MET WITH
HIM JULY 17. (DETAILS OF MEETING REPORTED SEPTEL).

2. LETTER TO THE SECRETARY. BEGIN TEXT:
"ON JULY 5 YOU CONSIDERATELY CALLED ME TO EXPRESS YOUR
CONCERN FOR OUR SERVICE MANAGER, FRANCIS JAY CRAWFORD,
WHO HAD BEEN IMPRISONED IN MOSCOW AND HAD BEEN RELEASED TO
THE SURETY OF AMBASSADOR TOON. AT THAT TIME YOU ASSURED
ME THAT OUR GOVERNMENT WOULD DO ALL THAT IT COULD TO
ASSIST US IN SECURING HIS COMPLETE AND TOTAL FREEDOM.

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"SINCE THAT DATE, WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH
MEMBERS OF YOUR DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING DR. SHULMAN. I WISH
TO THANK YOU AND COMMEND THEM FOR PROVIDING MY COMPANY
WITH COUNSEL AND ADVICE. IT HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE

THE POLICY OF INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER TO COOPERATE TO THE
FULLEST WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN THIS MATTER, FOR

OUR FIRST AND ONLY CONCERN IS TO SECURE THE COMPLETE AND TOTAL RELEASE OF MR. CRAWFORD. TOWARD THIS GOAL, WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO FOLLOW THE ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS YOUR DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN US WITH RESPECT TO BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATION WITH THE U.S.S.R.

"WE REMAIN ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THAT MR. CRAWFORD IS COMPLETELY INNOCENT. FRANKLY, WE ARE MOST CONCERNED OVER THE ADMINISTRATION'S PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT IT HAS NEGOTIATED FOR THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN SOVIET CITIZENS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAKING NO COMPARABLE STATEMENT OR TAKING ANY FURTHER ACTION TO INDICATE ITS DETERMINATION TO SECURE THE FREEDOM OF MR. CRAWFORD. WE BELIEVE THAT, AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, MR. CRAWFORD IS ENTITLED TO FIRST CONSIDERATION, AND THE FULL AND COMPLETE SUPPORT OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

"IN LETTER WHICH I HAVE WRITTEN TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN AND WHICH I SHALL PERSONALLY DELIVER TODAY, WE ARE FORMALLY REQUESTING MR. CRAWFORD'S RELEASE FROM SURETY TO AMBASSADOR TOON, THAT HE BE CLEARED OF THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM, AND THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO PURSUE HIS CAREER WITH OUR COMPANY. WE EARNESTLY SOLICIT YOUR CONTINUED PERSONAL SUPPORT OF THESE EFFORTS AND THAT HIGH PRIORITY BE REASSIGNED TO THIS ENDEAVOR. WE FURTHER REQUEST THAT AMBASSADOR TOON AND HIS STAFF BE NOTIFIED OF THIS POSITION IN ORDER THAT THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO FURTHER MISUNDERSTANDING OF OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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JOINT EFFORT TO FREE THIS CITIZEN.

"WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE PERSONNEL OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT HERE AND IN MOSCOW FOR EVERYTHING THAT THEY HAVE DONE FOR MR. CRAWFORD SINCE HIS ARREST AND HIS SUBSEQUENT RELEASE. HOWEVER, THE MATTER IS NOT YET SETTLED. IT SIMPLY IS NO LONGER "BUSINESS AS USUAL" FOR US AND WE HOPE IT IS NOT FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT. WE STAND READY TO USE EVERY ENERGY AT OUR COMMAND TO HELP SECURE HIS FREEDOM." END TEXT.

3. LETTER TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN. BEGIN TEXT:

"I WROTE YOU ON JUNE 15 AND EXPRESSED MY STRONGEST PROTEST AND CONCERN OVER THE ARREST OF FRANCIS JAY CRAWFORD, THE INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER SERVICE MANAGER IN MOSCOW. I REGRET THAT YOU HAVE NOT YET HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO THAT LETTER.

"NOW THAT MR. CRAWFORD HAS BEEN RELEASED TO THE CUSTODY OF AMBASSADOR TOON, MY ASSOCIATES AT INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER

WHO SPECIFICALLY WENT TO MOSCOW TO HELP HIM HAVE DISCUSSED WITH HIM THE ALLEGATIONS MADE AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST.

AFTER TALKING WITH MR. CRAWFORD AND CONDUCTING A THOROUGH INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION, WE REMAIN ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THAT HE IS COMPLETELY AND TOTALLY INNOCENT OF THE ACCUSATIONS MADE AGAINST HIM AND WE BELIEVE HIS ARREST WAS A MISTAKE.

"INTERNATIONALHARVESTER'S FIRST AND ONLY GOAL IS TO SECURE MR. CRAWFORD'S COMPLETE FREEDOM. THEREFORE, WE FORMALLY REQUEST THROUGH YOUR OFFICE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT SECURE THE RELEASE OF MR. CRAWFORD FROM SURETY TO AMBASSADOR TOON, THAT THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM BE DROPPED, AND THAT HE BE SET FREE TO PURSUE HIS CAREER WITH INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER.

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"WE BELIEVE THIS MOST UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO WRECK A LONG OUTSTANDING TRADING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOUR COUNTRY AND MY COMPANY. IT IS A RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS ACHIEVED WORLDWIDE RECOGNITION AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE MANNER IN WHICH TRADE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE-- A RELATIONSHIP BASED ON A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING THAT POLITICS AND TRADE ARE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT.

"MR. CRAWFORD'S ARREST, HOWEVER, BRINGS INTO SHARP FOCUS A CRITICAL DIMENSION OF THE SEPARATION OF TRADE AND POLITICS. INHERENT IN OUR ABILITY TO TRADE WITH YOUR COUNTRY IS A MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELL BEING OF THE PEOPLE WHO REPRESENT US.

"FINALLY,WE BELIEVE POSITIVE ACTION ON THE PART OF YOUR COUNTRY WOULD HAVE A MOST BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON PUBLIC OPINION IN THE UNITED STATES AND SUBSTANTIALLY COUNTER NEGATIVE FEELINGS BEING GENERATED IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY.

"FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS, YOUR COUNTRY AND MY COMPANY HAVE ENJOYED A FINE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL RESPECT BASED ON SOUND TRADING PRINCIPLES. I EARNESTLY SOLICIT YOUR ASSISTANCE AND COUNSEL ON THIS MATTER AND RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THE COURTESY OF A REPLY. " END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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